

Bears Win Eighth Straight, Crush Eagles

Written by Staff Reports

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The Lenoir-Rhyne Football Team (8-1, 6-0) clinched at least a share of its third straight South Atlantic Conference Championship after overwhelming 16th-ranked Carson-Newman (7-2, 3-2), 37-3, Saturday afternoon at Moretz Stadium.

L-R, ranked No. 22 in NCAA Division II and first in the region, surrendered a field goal before reeling off 37 straight points en route to the win. Lenoir-Rhyne is off to its best start since ending the 1967 campaign with an 8-1 mark. The Bears have also won eight straight games.

Lenoir-Rhyne junior quarterback Miles Freeman (Sacramento, Calif.) scored twice on the ground while the Bears' defense limited the Eagles to just 155 yards of total offense including 90 yards rushing.

Carson-Newman came into the game ranked second in the nation in rushing (376.1 ypg) while averaging 507.4 yards of total offense and 40.6 points per game. Trailing by a 3-0 score in the second quarter, Lenoir-Rhyne took over after Freeman registered back-to-back four-yard scoring runs.

L-R then put the game out of reach when redshirt freshman running back Michael Patrick (Atlanta, Ga.) scored on the last play of the first half to give the Bears a 21-3 advantage.

Senior placekicker Zach Neumann (Mechanicsville, Md.), a first-team all-conference pick last season, hit three consecutive field goals of 40 or more yards in the second half before senior halfback Corron Boston (Durham, N.C.) rounded out the scoring with a one-yard touchdown run for the Bears midway through the fourth quarter.

Lenoir-Rhyne rushed for 327 yards on the day and was led by senior halfback Graham Duncan (Gainesville, Ga.) and junior halfback Jarrod Spears (Bunnlevel, N.C.) with 99 and 82 yards, respectively.

On defense, junior linebacker Tanner Botts (Lawrenceville, Ga.) tallied a team-high 12 takedowns while senior defensive lineman Jimmy Long (Gainesville, Va.) added nine tackles, two sacks and a forced fumble for Lenoir-Rhyne. Carson-Newman, which saw its four-game winning streak come to an end, was led by Jaycob Coleman (Norton, Va.) with a game-high 14 tackles.

Lenoir-Rhyne hosts Alderson Broaddus on Senior Day next Saturday in a non-conference game at Noon while Carson-Newman returns home to face No. 25 Newberry in a key conference contest Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Miles Freeman, L-R Athletics